

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 10 MARCH 2002

This is Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 CAT in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za and packet bulletin boards.

In the news today:

VHF/UHF CONTEST

MONITORING FOR TWO METRE DX

“LOGBOOK OF THE WORLD” WILL COMPLEMENT QSL TRADITION

Stay tuned for more details on these and other news items.

You are tuned to ZS6SRL. Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

The SARL News Service invites Clubs and individuals to contribute news regarding Amateur Radio to sarlnews@hotmail.com only. NEWS ITEMS SENT TO OTHER ADDRESSES COULD GO ASTRAY AND MAY NOT BE INCLUDED IN BULLETINS. It will be highly appreciated if it is done in both Afrikaans and English and sent as early in the week as possible.

Now for the news in detail:

VHF/UHF CONTEST

Next weekend hosts the first leg of the SARL VHF/UHF Contest. This contest runs from 12:00 CAT on Saturday 16 March to 12:00 CAT on Sunday 17 March.

The aim of the contest is to promote activity on the VHF and UHF bands. The Contest is open to all licensed Radio Amateurs in South- Africa and neighbouring states. Participants can take part as portable station, multi-mode; fixed station, multi-mode or fixed station, FM only. Entrants in any category may not change the location of the station once the contest has started. Any station must use a single call sign and locator during the entire contest.

A FM only station is a station using FM for all contacts made. A multi-Mode station is a station using any mode or combination of modes in addition to or other than FM. The following frequency bands may be used: 50 to 51,5 MHz; 144 to 145,8 MHz; 432 to 433,6 MHz and 1296 to 1296,5 MHz using CW, FM or SSB. Digital Modes or Spread-Spectrum are not permitted nor repeater, satellite, EME or Cross-Band operation. Participants shall adhere to all sub-bands as specified in the SARL and IARU Region 1 band plans. Only one signal may be transmitted in each band at any given moment.

The exchange is Call signs of both stations, Report sent (e.g. 59/599) and geographical grid location of the station. No serial numbers are required.

It seems that the tendency during the last number of contests was to use FM only. What about SSB, horizontally polarised? Does it not present the possibility of making longer distance contacts with higher score values?

The address for Contest Entries is John Fielding ZS5JF, PO Box 256, Inchanga, 3670. E-mail enquiries: johnf@futurenet.co.za

MONITORING FOR TWO METRE DX

Several Division 2 VHF amateurs in East London and Port Elizabeth have volunteered to monitor the frequency of 144,400 MHz over weekends for any long distance signals. They include ZS2AH, ZR2NB, ZR2REG, ZS2BL, ZS2IV, ZS2JF, ZS2U and ZS2FM.

When at home they will leave their receivers running throughout the day, i.e. Saturday and Sunday, with their beams pointing in different directions, e.g. West, North-West, North and North- East.

Distant stations are requested to make a few calls during the day when convenient, but especially when they can hear the ZS2VHF beacon on 144,415 MHz FSK, which is horizontally polarized. They may use any mode to make some noise on the channel to attract attention.

A lot of daytime openings, both on Tropo and Sporadic-E, have been missed in the past just because no one was on frequency.

Sarlnews expresses its appreciation towards PEARS for the research being done by them in connection with VHF/UHF propagation. We urge all amateurs to support them in this praiseworthy undertaking of theirs and to share in any successes achieved.

“LOGBOOK OF THE WORLD” WILL COMPLEMENT QSL TRADITION

The ARRL is working on “Logbook of the World” (LOTW) an

electronic contact-verification program that will spark “a culture change” when it is introduced later this year, as predicted by Project Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG. Once LOTW is operational, participants will be able to qualify for awards such as DXCC or WAS without having to first secure verification in the form of hard-copy QSL cards.

LOTW will not replace but complement the whole paper QSL scheme neither will it provide a means to get QSLs-electronic or otherwise. Mills explained that it is really a system to offer credits for awards and not just ARRL awards. He hopes to enlist the participation of other organizations that grant operating awards, such as CQ and RSGB.

Central to the LOTW concept is a huge repository of constantly updated log data provided by individual DXers, contesters and DXpeditions and maintained by the ARRL. Once it's up and running, LOTW will be able to provide quick contact credit. Mills said that the system will be open to all-ARRL members and non-members.

Registering and uploading electronic log data to LOTW will be free. The only time users will incur charges is when they wish to apply contact credits toward a particular award, such as DXCC, WAS or VUCC.

Software development is continuing. ARRL Web/Software Development Department Manager Jon Bloom, KE3Z, expects to begin full system testing this spring (our autumn).

Security will be built into the system and every effort will be made to ensure the integrity of LOTW log data. Registrants will have to positively identify themselves via off-line, hard-copy means before being issued a secure-and free digital signature and granted password access.

In simple terms, when a participant logs on, the Logbook system would determine if its database contains any contact “matches” with log data submitted. If so, a user could apply any credits generated to particular awards at a per-credit fee. Mills said the cost would be in line with current ARRL award fees.

Mills said he hopes to announce an inauguration date for Logbook of the World within a few months.

The DX fraternity is surely anxiously looking forward to the implementation of this exciting and useful facility.

ISS SCHOOL CONTACTS

During the past week the ISS crew had amateur radio contacts with one school in America as well as the Harrowgate Ladies College in England. This college has a club station in operation since 1980. The college produced over 90 amateurs since then. What a beautiful example.

CLUB NEWS

At the AGM of the Overberg Amateur Radio Club ZS1AOR held on the 2nd March at Hermanus, the old committee was re-elected to serve for another year. The committee members are Chairman ZS1WC . Johan; Vice Chairman ZR1VR ..Len Secretary ZS1AIJ..Arthur Treasurer ZS1SR ..Kosie Editor.Radio Overberg ZR1GD...Willem; BBS es Technical ZS1TGH Tim; Additional member ZS1MC...Malcolm.

We wish the new committee the best for the new year.

SASOL 2002 SCIENCE FESTIVAL

This is the last reminder relating to the Sasol 2002 Science festival to be held in Grahamstown from the 13 to 19 March 2002. The Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society thanks all those that forwarded their best wishes and support for the event and also those that are helping with the preparation and manning of the amateur radio exhibit. Special thanks go to Andre ZS2AJ who will be our anker man in Grahamstown.

Dont forget to listen out for ZS2PE during that period and lets show the youth what fun amateur radio can be.

ZS6PTA FLEA MARKET

The Pretoria amateur radio club wil hold its autumn flea market on Saturday 6 April 2002. The flea market will be held at the usual place at the South Campus of the University of Pretoria. Please note the starting time is 12:00.

Everyone is welcome to come and visit the biggest flea market in Southern Africa. Phone Almero ZR6RY on (012) 567 3722 or 082 414 5164 if you want to book a table or if you need directions to the flea market.

BLOEMFONTEIN ARC RAFFLE

The draw for the Bloemfontein ARC raffle for an ICOM IC2100H 2-metre transceiver and a cell phone will take place during the VHF/UHF Contest. There are still some tickets available from Barney ZS4AQZ at 083 462 7507 or firedog@iafrica.com

SARLNEWS thanks all contributors, individuals, clubs and other organizations for contributions to this bulletin and all stations who so reliably relay the bulletins.

This bulletin was compiled by Gustav ZS6BWN, and read
by.....from . . . as a service to radio amateurs,
short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 21560, 9750 and 7082 kHz and 145,750 MHz in the Pretoria area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 20:00 CAT on 3215 kHz. ARMI is sponsored by Telkom and Sentech.

At noon on Sundays the SARL President s net is on the air on 7082 kHz.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL, thank you for joining us.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX